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SOVIET PRESSURE ON IRAN

- I. Since cancellation in October of Soviet President Voroshilov's scheduled visit--intended as a rebuke--Moscow has mounted considerable diplomatic and propaganda pressure on Iran to limit scope, if not actually forestall, conclusion of Iranian-American defense agreement.
 - A. Latest Soviet note, delivered 29 December, proposed mutual talks on outstanding issues.
 1. On 31 December the Soviet ambassador suggested conference of unspecified larger powers to negotiate international guarantee of Iranian neutrality, apparently expecting that rejection of the Soviet proposals would place Moscow in a stronger position to step up its pressure.
- II. Iran not being intimidated by Soviet pressure.
 - A. Iranian Government has reacted by requesting US that defense agreement be concluded as soon as possible, preferably before Baghdad Pact Ministerial Council convenes in Karachi 26 January.
 - B. In his conversations with US officials, moreover, the shah is citing Soviet pressure to bolster his argument that Iran needs additional military aid.
 1. As part of his tactics to obtain additional aid, as during last year while the Iranian budget was in preparation, the Shah is hinting that he will consider changing Iran's policy to neutrality unless it receives